

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 EUR-12 AF-10 /091 W
-----062026Z 085601 /65

R 061510Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5836
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9435

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT SY LE
SUBJ: POLITICAL UNIFICATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND LEBANON

1. WE DEFER TO EMBASSIES DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT FOR ON
THE SCENE APPRAISAL POSSIBILITY SYRIA LEANING
TOWARDS SOME KIND OF POLITICAL UNION WITH LEBANON.
WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH EMBASSY DAMASCUS' OBSERVATION
(REF B) THAT BOTH AS BAATHIST AND AS SYRIAN, ASAD'S
INSTINCTIVE AND PHILOSOPHICAL IMPULSE IS TOWARD
SOME KIND OF " GREATER SYRIA". AS DEPARTMENT AWARE,
STAR IN BAATHI FLAG SYMPOLIZED BAATH PARTY AMBITION
THAT GREATER SYRIA SHOULD ONE DAY EXTEND AS FAR AS
CYPRUS.
2. FROM GOE PERSPECTIVE, SYRIAN LONG TERM POLITICAL
GOALS ARE VIEWED THROUGH LENS OF HOSTORIC EGYPTIAN/
SYRIAN RIVALRY OF ARAB LEADERSHIP AND OPPOSITION TO ANY
"GREATER SYRIA CONCEPT" UNLESS UNDER EGYPTIAN CONTROL.
SADAT HIMSELF HAS CONFIDED TO AMBASSADOR HIS CONTINUING
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SUSPICION THAT SYRIA HAS NO INTENTION OF PULLING OUT OF
LEBANON. BELIEF THAT SARG, WHETHER HEADED BY ASAD OR
NOT, AIMS AT SYRIAN/LEBANESE/PALESTINIAN/JORDANIAN
CONFEDERATION IS DEEPLY HELD THROUGHOUT MFA. WE
HAVE, HOWEVER, HEARD NO OFFICIAL VOICE CLAIMING TO BE-
LIEVE SYRIANS ARE AT THIS MOMENT PUSHING FOR POLITICAL
UNION WITH LEBANON. IN FACT, THERE IS RELUCTANT WIL-

INGNESS TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY THAT SYRIA IS NOT PUSHING SARKIS HARD ENOUGH TO REORGANIZE LEBANESE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. EGYPTIAN MFA IS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH SARKIS'S THEORY OF GETTING ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL REORGANIZATION UNDER WAY AS METHOD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL PREPARATION FOR POLITICAL RESTRUCTURING , BELIEVEING INSTEAD THAT POLITICAL DECISIONS SHOULD COME FIRST. WHILE THIS CONCERN WITH LEBANESE POLICY MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS CONCERN THAT LEBANON PULL ITSELF TOGETHER TO BE ABLE TO FEND OFF ANY SYRIAN POLITICAL UNITY PLAN, THIS IS NOT CONTEXT IN WHICH MFA OFFICIALS HAVE SPOKEN TO US.

3. IN SHORT, EGYPTIANS, WHO HAVE NOT TOO LONG AGO EMERGED FROM BITTER NASSERIST/BAATHI IDEOLOGICAL BATTLE IN ME, CONTINUE TAKE BAATHI PHILOSOPHY LITERALLY; I.E., ANY BAATHI GOVERNMENT, WHETHER SYRIAN, IRAQI OR OTHERWISE, SEEKS AS LONG TERM GOAL A UNITED BAATHI ARAB EAST. RIGHT NOW, HOWEVER, EGYPTIANS, WHO DID NOT HESITATE TO AIR THEIR VIEWS ON SYRIAN "HEGEMONY" DURING LEBANESE FIGHTING, ARE NOT SUGGESTING THAT ASAD ON VERGE OF PUSHING FOR POLITICAL UNIFICATION WITH LEBANON. EILTS

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